

EVENING ECONOMY GROUP MEETING – THURSDAY 30TH JULY 2015 – BONNY BOAT PUB

MINUTES

Present: Kathryn Shillito (**HullBID**), Mark Andrews, (**HullBID**) Francesca Sharp (**HullBID**), Catherine Goble (**HullBID**), Rob Jackson(**Star of the West, Trinity, Burlington**), Susan Brooks (**Hull Cheese**), Chris Stanley (**Day Today Minimart**), Joanne Richardson (**McDonalds**), Alan Barnes (**George Hotel**), Kim McGivern (**George Hotel**), Jaime Purves (**JD Wetherspoon**), Lee Chapman (**Oscars Bar**), Emma BUdham (**JDW**), Wayne Mason (**Sugar Mill**), Joanna Hardy (**Sugar Mill**), Danielle Matthews (**3 John Scotts**), Katie Younger (**Admiral of the Humber**), Kie Maston (**Babylon**), Nick Taylor (**Babylon**), Carla Williamson (**Bonny Boat**), Linda Levantiz (**Bonny Boat**), Mick Woollas (**Ye Olde White Heart**) Claire Bennett (**Punch Hotel**), Leila Bolton (**Punch Hotel**), Linda Cressey (**HPSS**).

Matthew Grove (Humberside Police and Crime Commissioner) & Dawn Morgan (Hull City Council Public Health)

1. PREVIOUS MINUTES/MATTERS ARISING:

Kathryn ran through the previous meeting minutes from 11th June 2015. The group still had concerns that the new Sergeant hadn't familiarised himself with everyone. Punch confirmed that Kevin Priestley had visited their premises and helped to organise cherry picker after this was raised at the meeting. The BID are driving the production of a robust report potentially with specialists CBRE to address the issues and come up with recommendations. BID is working with Hull City Council and Bondholders to look at a 3 way split to cover the cost of the funding. City of Culture lasts for 4 years and we need to look at how we can keep the spend coming in.

2. MATTHEW GROVE, HUMBERSIDE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER

Matthew started by expressing his thanks to all in the evening economy trade for the hard work and effort put in by all which helped towards achieving the Purple Flag accreditation of which he believes we wouldn't have got City of Culture without it. Matthew continued to say thank you for making Hull such a great place to be, it has changed so much over the years and feels that traders deserve to reap the rewards.

Matthew spoke how the Avenues is a popular destination but feels the trade will come back to the city centre as everything is here for them and hopes that soon the benefits that are owed are reaped. He understands the struggles the evening economy are having and agrees something needs to be done about it, stating businesses have got to help each other. Keeping the city safe cannot be done by the police alone.

Matthew commented that he went on a tour to establishments around Humberside, Scunthorpe, Immingham, Grimsby and Cleethorpes and commented that Hull had a lot of positive attributes in comparison.

Policing has changed since mid-April and this is down to huge financial challenges. The level of policing couldn't carry on with less money. Matthew explained that they are trying their best with the level of policing to pubs but understands that not all differences will be positive; they are looking at the issues and trying to address them. Matthew described the evening economy group as major contributors to the city and its culture and opened it up to the floor for questions.

Kathryn Shillito questioned the threat of the Avenues explaining that some have gone from café bar style premises to vertical drinking after 6pm potentially resulting in overcrowding and asked if this tends to pull Police out of the city centre and also if anything can be done to check if the premises are breaching their licenses by allowing more people in? Matthew responded that there are so many restrictions to businesses now that there has to be a level playing field. Enforcement can sometimes trigger problems but they are not getting a lot of public order issues to the Avenues. Kathryn added that there is going to be a new hostel on Lockwood Street due to open which might affect the Avenues.

Rob Jackson also commented on the Avenues that in large venues some only have 2 urinals which tell you the capacity that can enter. He is concerned regarding the late licensing as venues are staying open later, some turning into clubs, which years ago people would head into the city centre once they were closing, this he feels will spread the policing. Rob added that city centre venues are safe – it's the streets that are not going to be safe soon. Already they are starting to see things happen on the streets and the back alleys. Matthew responded that licensing is in the hands of the local authorities and they are tied by legislation. The level of officers visible has been reduced, interacting early on in the night can prevent issues later. The demand is 4 times greater at 7pm than 7am. They are trying to rebuild a public order team and feel it will get to a level that businesses will be happy with. He feels it could be more sensible for specials/officers to work from 9pm until later rather than going off duty around 2am/3am. Specials were discussed, some feeling that specials are not respected as they are so young and a lot of them are new but the other point raised is that specials also bring 'young legs'.

Chris Stanley of Day Today Mini Mart on Silver Street expressed his huge concern on beggars harassing people on Silver Street, stating that he feels the police are not moving them, resulting in zero confidence of the police. Incidents are reported, they are logged but it's not satisfactory. HullBID officers work hard to move them but are restricted to what they can do. The only night he's witness them being moved was when Sgt Wilkes was out. Matthew said that he would ask how many tickets are being issued. Chris raised an instance when 2 well known beggars were on the street when there were 6 police officers talking amongst themselves for 25 minutes ignoring the beggars.

All agreed that begging is one of the key issues that needs to be addressed. Matthew will take away the information given and will ask for regular feedback and how many notices are being issued.

Bob Carver, Trinity House Lane commented that he is also open on an evening but on a morning around 8am/9am is also when trouble can happen, people are seen with special brew/strong drinks and there is no one around to approach them the cameras are facing down Whitefriargate. Matthew stated that they put the officers on duty at the times they are needed most. The cameras are manned 24 hours and there is probably a low number of crimes in that area, hence the reason they face down Whitefriargate. Chris Stanley added that they have refused to sell the strong alcohol under the 'Reduce the Strength' initiative and can't understand why other businesses similar are not doing the same.

Joanne Richardson of McDonalds raised the issues with the 101 telephone reporting lines how you cannot get through and also once you do get through the response is not good. Matthew gave an unreserved apology stating that it is unacceptable and still not as good as it needs to be but they have made improvements to it, shortening the pick-up response time, within the next month it should get better. Centralising the calls saved money, however they had new recruits who were not as experienced so they put more police officers in there to get more judgement. Matthew stated that you can also report low crimes online. Rob Jackson added that he saw a violent incident that needed reporting but again couldn't get through. Matthew commented that if there is an incident in progress to ring 999 as he agrees you do need to get through to the police quickly. Sue Brooks of Hull Cheese spoke about a violent incident that happened last year, she rang 999 3 times and received no response at all, no one came.

Matthew was very surprised at this as it is a mandatory requirement to go to a domestic violence incident and asked Sue to give him more details with dates and times and he will look into it.

Jaime Purves of JD Wetherspoon asked if there is a plan in place for football matches this year? Matthew explained that only in exceptional circumstances can the police provide times for football matches, this season will probably be tougher to police and will take this question away and see what the plan is.

Kathryn asked if there is a police strategy in place for 2017 with an expected extra million visitors? Matthew explained that not yet but this has been raised with the Chief Constable. City of Culture is a huge opportunity for business and organisations and the police want to actively get involved. Many events become self-policing as you get a right mixture of people.

Joanne of McDonalds stated that policing is needed early hours of the morning as there is no one around again to deal with incidents so they are now looking into security. Matthew said that they can only spread resource so thin. He feels that if everyone could go back to traditional trading hours it would be better.

Kathryn asked if the crime stats look good for potential investors looking at Hull? Matthew responded that Hull doesn't have gang culture, knife crime or gun crime and anti-social behaviour is at low levels so feels we have more to celebrate than worry about.

Kathryn thanked Matthew for his time and attending the meeting and thanked everyone for their input. Matthew said he would take away all issues raised today and look into them. He also mentioned that he would have a night on the Avenues with the Police to have a look around; he was a former building inspector so occupancy for fire levels is his thing!

If you do have any more questions please feed through to HullBID.

3. GARY PARKER/IAN GOODE

Both Gary and Ian sent apologies.

4. YUM! FESTIVAL AND TRINITY FESTIVAL – BRIEF UPDATE

Yum! Friday 7th & Saturday 8th August on King Edward Street and Queen Victoria Square. There is a networking event open to BID members – details given out. Yum! has expanded again this year, 63 stalls in total with 30 of them being HullBID members and 65 HullBID members having offers on.

P1 Powerboat is on 8th & 9th August, hoping that Yum! will work well together with this and anchor and pull people in.

Humber Street Sesh – all agreed it pulls people away and have voiced concerns. If you can please feedback to HullBID on how it has impacted on your business.

Kathryn introduced Linda Cressey of HPSS. Linda spoke about Humber Street Sesh how it started off small and it's grown and developed so they have to go with legislation, 10,000 tickets sold so far and looking at 20,000 to 30,000 to cater for hence the small admission charge.

Linda commented that everyone should have their letter of intent by now regarding taking part in Trinity Festival. If you are arranging your own entertainment/acts that is fine but communicate this with Catherine at BID. Friday night line-up is now complete with Mighty and the Moon, Ramble Gamble, Yasmin Coe and Fudgey. The headliners will

be announced in the next couple of weeks. Kathryn added that we have got a major sponsor this year and they have been very generous which enables us to go for some great headline acts and expand on marketing etc. There will be a BID networking event which includes complimentary tickets to the Friday night curtain raiser at the church. Public realm works will not commence in the area until after the festival.

5. FREEDOM FESTIVAL – UPDATE

Freedom – across the weekend of September 4th-6th. HullBID has fought for more activity for this part of the town. Holy Trinity Church will be hosting one of the highlights – Tubular Bells for Two. Linda explained that they are constantly told at ESAG meetings that police will not police events – you have to arrange your own security.

6. DAWN MORGAN, PUBLIC HEALTH DIRECTORATE, HULL CITY COUNCIL

Dawn introduced herself and explained her role in working in commissioning in public health. The city's alcohol strategy is due to expire at the end of 2016. Dawn is interested in hearing the issues you have and noted throughout the meeting the issues raised today and notes that street drinking is a top priority as this happens every day. You have the opportunity to input into the strategy as they are currently in the process of drafting the strategy to the Health & Wellbeing board.

Priorities are crime, community safety, early intervention of treatment and prevention. They are hoping to launch the strategy in November. If you would like to have your input please contact Dawn Morgan on Dawn.Morgan@hullcc.gov.uk or you can feed through HullBID.

Mark Andrews, HullBID asked if you have any problems at all will beggars/homeless please let him know.

Date of next meeting:- Thursday 3rd September 2015 at 3.00pm, Bonny Boat

Thank you as always to The Bonny Boat for hosting the meeting and providing the coffees. It is much appreciated.